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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixtieth year

Identical letters dated 15 November 2005 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Over the past three weeks, Israel, the occupying Power, has escalated its military aggression against the Palestine people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In particular, the occupying Power has intensified its campaign of extrajudicial killings of Palestinian civilians, in flagrant violation of international law, and has persisted with its incursions and military assaults against Palestinian cities and villages, resulting in the death of at least 13 Palestinians, including 9 children, and the injury of tens of other innocent civilians.

Additionally, top officials in the Israeli Government, including Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, have been making highly inflammatory statements against the Palestinian leadership and future peace prospects. The actions and statements undertaken by Israel, the occupying Power, have only served to undermine and obstruct the serious efforts made by the Palestinian Authority to secure and maintain the ceasefire and achieve progress on other tracks of the road map, including the upcoming Palestinian legislative elections.

Among the numerous incidents of Palestinians, in particular children, being killed by the Israeli occupying forces over the past three weeks was the tragic death of 12-year-old Ahmad Al-Khatib. On Thursday, 3 November 2005, as the Palestinian people were celebrating the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, Israeli occupying forces raided the West Bank town of Qabataya. During the raid, Ahmad was fatally shot by Israeli occupying forces while playing with his friends outside his home. After two days of suffering, Ahmad passed away. Upon the praiseworthy request of Ahmad's family, his organs were donated to save the lives of six Israeli children "for the sake of peace between peoples".

In addition to the scenes of death and destruction that the Palestinian people have had to bear following each Israeli military assault over the past three weeks, they have also had to endure inflammatory statements repeatedly issued by members

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of the Israeli Government. These statements, which either attack the Palestinian leadership and doubt its intentions or discredit the internationally endorsed road map, spread hopelessness and increase animosity among the Palestinian population.

In this connection, on 28 October 2005, the Israeli Minister of Defense, Shaul Mofaz, declared to the largely circulated Israeli daily *Yediot Ahronot* that he doubted highly that a peace accord could be reached with the present generation of Palestinian leaders. The minister went as far as to say that Israelis would have to wait "for the next generation" to reach peace with the Palestinians. Adding to such inflammatory and disappointing comments, the Israeli Prime Minister declared to the Knesset three days later that the Israeli commitment to the road map was "conditional" on the 14 Israeli reservations forwarded by his Government. Moreover, the Israeli Prime Minister continued to interfere flagrantly in internal Palestinian affairs when he openly discussed his intention to obstruct the upcoming legislative elections if Hamas participated in them.

Israel, the occupying Power, has further complicated the already difficult situation by declaring its intention to spend generously on its illegal settlement activities, especially in occupied East Jerusalem, in addition to continuing the construction of its illegal wall. The declared plans for further expanding the so-called "greater Jerusalem", which includes linking the illegal settlement of "Maale Adumim" with occupied East Jerusalem, will effectively slice the West Bank into two disconnected parts, making the creation of a contiguous and viable Palestinian State virtually impossible. Such plans are in flagrant violation of international law, the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, rendered on 9 July 2004, as well as Israel's obligations according to the road map.

The fact that Israel continues to launch such aggressions and to carry out its illegal policies and practices against the Palestinian people is undoubtedly attributable to the fact that it has been permitted by the international community time and again to act with impunity, without consequence for its actions. Thus, the international community must reiterate its call upon Israel, the occupying Power, to abide by all of its legal obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, and must act decisively in case of continued non-compliance.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 225 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 28 October 2005 (A/ES-10/311-S/2005/685) constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my profound regret to inform you that since our last letter to you, at least 19 more Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the total number of martyrs killed since September 2000 to 3,774. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified are listed in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 15 November 2005 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* Thursday, 27 October to Monday, 14 November 2005)

Thursday, 27 October 2005

1. Mohamad Kandeel (16 years old)
2. Mohamad Al-Razayna

Friday, 28 October 2005

Majed Matate

Sunday, 30 October 2005

1. Jihad Mohamad Zakarna
2. Arsheed Ahmad Tawfiq Kamile

Tuesday, 1 November 2005

1. Hassan Attiya Al-Madhoune
2. Fawzi Mohamad Abu Al-Qorae

Wednesday, 2 November 2005

Raafat Moussa Torkmane

Friday, 4 November 2005

1. Ahmad Ismail Al-Khatib (12 years old)
2. Mohamad Hichum Assaf Kamile

Monday, 7 November 2005

Hani Awda Abu Sawawine

Tuesday, 8 November 2005

Mohamad Hamdi Abu Saliha (15 years old)

Wednesday, 9 November 2005

1. Samir Ribhi Ahmad Dary
2. Akram Abu Gadabeene

Thursday, 10 November 2005

Facel Abu Arram

* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 3,774.

Saturday, 12 November 2005

Bilal Waked Al-Shaer (17 years old)

Sunday, 13 November 2005

Shojae Balaoui

Monday, 14 November 2005

Amjad Al-Hannaoui